





Every one who has a garden should grow a few strawberries. It is a very simple matter to grow a moderate crop; but to produce it in abundance and of the best quality requires considerable skill and constant care.

The best and largest crop of strawberries that I ever raised was produced in the following manner: A bed, twenty-five feet wide and two hundred feet long, was prepared by spreading upon it twelve cart-loads of old, well-rotted cow-manure; the ground was then ploughed deep and harrowed down smooth and level. About the middle of April the plants were set out in rows, two feet apart, with a space of about eighteen inches between them.

No weeds were allowed to grow among the plants, and the surface of the soil was stirred at least once a week during the entire summer. Two or three runners were allowed to grow from each plant, and these were placed so that they would take root between the old plants in the rows.

In the autumn, when the ground began to freeze quite hard at night, the entire bed and plants were covered with coarse grass to the depth of two inches, after it had partially settled. To prevent the mulching being blown off, a few poles were laid around the outer edge of the bed.

In the spring, after the severe cold weather was past, a man passed along each row, and with a stick parted the mulching just over the centre of each row of plants, so as to allow the air and light to reach the crowns and permit the leaves and fruit-stalks to grow up without hindrance. None of the mulching was removed from the beds; consequently the soil was kept moist and the fruit clean. This bed yielded a little over twelve bushels of fruit the second season after planting, which was the first crop; after the fruit was gathered, all the mulching was removed, and the soil between the rows was forked over, but no more manure of any kind applied. The runners were not allowed to grow or take root except in places where there was a vacant space in the rows, and the next fall the mulching was applied the same as before. This treatment was continued for four years, and then the plants were ploughed under.

I have tried many different systems of culture for the strawberry, but none that has given so much satisfaction as this one, and although it may be too expensive for extended culture yet for the amateur who does not grow more than a half acre or so, and desires to produce the largest amount possible on a given space, I can confidently recommend the above as being a system that will not only give an abundant crop, but the greatest amount of pleasure and profit. Many of the most delicate and large foreign varieties will succeed when treated in this manner, although they often fail when grown without mulching or winter protection.

Improvement in Tanning.  
M. H. Picard reports a new system of tanning skins which is carried through without acid and is much shorter than that now required by ordinary processes. He first boils the tan down in water, making a coarse extract, and then feeds the deerskin by decantation from all residue and foreign substances. The strength of the essence thus obtained is regulated according to the quality, thickness, etc., of the hides to be treated, weakening it when necessary with pure water. It is placed in the pits in a cold state, and the skins are immediately thrown in. The latter are lifted and their positions changed three times during the first and second days, twice during the third, and once a day afterwards. Ordinarily, eight days suffice to complete the tanning process, but in some cases that the proportion of about 77 pounds of extract to 220 pounds of skins gives excellent results.

VICINITY.  
—Work is to be resumed on the N. Y., Boston & Montreal Railroad as soon as the weather becomes settled.  
—John S. Stoutenburgh, one of the original nine partners who formerly owned the town of Hyde Park, died in Union Corners on Saturday, in the 80th year of his age.  
—Columbia county's meanest man "doctored" his workmen for two hours they were off at the funeral of a brother employee.

—A young man in South America sent postal cards to two young ladies with a paper pasted over the messages, obliging the ladies to pay six cents for extra postage.

—The Cairo people have to be sick between ten o'clock at night or not at all, as the doctors refuse to go out between ten o'clock and morning.

—Father O'Hare of Goshen has been arrested and held to bail in \$200 for striking a Miss Coleman across the face with his cane. He met her in the street in the evening, standing on a corner with some companions. As she did not go home when he told her she struck her as stated above.

—The Frank Troy Budget is of the opinion that if the ladies of Troy were to organize prayer meetings in front of the city saloons there could be more than one lady at each saloon at the same time. It is not that there were too few ladies but that there are too many saloons.

—A Newburgher paid a judgment not long ago in currency and old fashioned copper coins, among which was mixed some cowhide (commonly called cowhuff). The Justice was about to blow the stuff out of one told him he had better not. The man was arrested for the offence, but will probably not be tried.

—At the point on the Harlem Railroad where the wind occasionally interrupts railroad travel, the roof of a car was blown off the other day. The accident was not discovered till the train had reached its destination. The detached roof was subsequently found in the gorge at that point.

—Mr. Judson Sander of Roxbury has milked sixty cows the past season, and from those sixty cows he has made a very fancy dairy of butter, consisting of 157 packages of butter, for which he got the highest fancy price at the time he sold, the entire dairy amounting to \$4,300.—*Standard Mirror.*

—James Way has disappeared from Poughkeepsie. His friends are alarmed. To balance this, two missing Poughkeepsians are now known to be alive, William Kahant and William Savage. The latter is in St. Louis, and the former is at work on the Erie Railroad. The wife of the former has married another man, and is residing in Paterson, N. J.

The Poughkeepsie Eagle is responsible for the following story: Not long ago it was necessary to disinter a body from one of the county burial grounds for post mortem purposes. The physicians while removing the shroud, felt a soft and irregular lump underneath it, and cutting away the shroud found a piece of fat pork resting upon the abdomen of deceased. They inquired of the undertaker what that was put there for. He replied in a careless manner, "Oh, we often do that in order to make the grave clothes fit."























